

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action mailed December 27, 2010, claims 20 – 27 were rejected and claims 28 – 33 were deemed allowable. In response, Applicant has canceled claims 20 – 27 and amended claim 28. Applicant hereby requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claim, the canceled claims, and the below-provided remarks.

For reference, claim 28 is amended to correct a typographical error. In particular, the phrase “the base contact comprising having:” is amended to recite “the base contact comprising:”. The amendment does not change the scope of claim 28.

### Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner’s review of the claims and determination that claims 28 – 33 recite allowable subject matter. While the Office action provides a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, the statement is directed to specific aspects of certain claims and not necessarily all of the claims. Applicant notes that the comments may have paraphrased the language of the claims and it should be understood that the language of the claims themselves set out the scope of the claims. Thus, it is noted that the claim language should be viewed in light of the exact language of the claim rather than any paraphrasing or implied limitations thereof.

### Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 and 103

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Additionally, claims 20 – 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Utsunomiya et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,359,326, hereinafter Utsunomiya) in view of Lien (U.S. Pat. No. 5,723,822, hereinafter Lien). However, claims 20 – 27 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

## CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the new claims and the remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Generally, in this Amendment and Response, Applicant has not raised all possible grounds for (a) traversing the rejections of the Action or (b) patentably distinguishing any new claims (i.e., over the Cited References or otherwise). Applicant however, reserves the right to explicate and expand on any ground already raised and/or to raise other grounds for traversing and/or for distinguishing, including, without limitation, by explaining and/or distinguishing the subject matter of the Application and/or any cited reference at a later time (e.g., in the event that this Application does not proceed to issue with the claims as herein amended, or in the context of a continuing application).

Applicant submits that nothing herein is, or should be deemed to be, a disclaimer of any rights, acquiescence in any rejection, or a waiver of any arguments that might have been raised but were not raised herein, or otherwise in the prosecution of this Application, whether as to the original claims or as to any of the new claims, or otherwise. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce one or more of the original claims in original form or otherwise so as to claim the subject matter of those claims, both/either at a later time in prosecuting this Application or in the context of a continuing application.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account **50-4019** pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account **50-4019** under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

Respectfully submitted,

/mark a. wilson/

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Mark A. Wilson  
Reg. No. 43,994

Wilson & Ham  
1811 Santa Rita Road, Suite 130  
Pleasanton, California 94566  
Phone: (925) 249-1300  
Fax: (925) 249-0111